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THE PRICKED EAR

Life? Butterfly
On a swaying grass, thats all...
But exquisite!
Soin

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Vol. VI
Ed.: R.C.Emerson
Staff: Dolan, Gott, Morse, Mulherin, Nemitz, Phelps
No. 11
April 25, 1960

H.P.

Well, Houseparty for another semester is gone. Now we can settle down and do some work, with only memories, some fond and some otherwise to ponder. Jim Rice wants to especially thank the members of the Houseparty Committee, Masuda, Morse, Mulherin, Nichols, Pritchard, Rettew, Robinson and Rothenberger for the excellent job they did on an often thankless task. After all the discussion about finances, we just about broke even.

R.C.E.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Sir,

It is with hesitation that I go into print, having carefully avoided controversy during the year in which I have been a Residence Officer. However, I have been driven into a public expression of my views by the depth of the fears I feel for the future of the Counselling System at Lehigh. Let me make it clear at the outset that my concern is for counselling to which the Gryphon Society is a helpful adjunct, but no more than this. Our purpose and our duty as university officers is counselling, and although we may use any tools that lie at hand, whether already in existence or of our own creation, they remain aids to the better performance of our function. They are not synonymous with our duties and cannot by their nature ever become so, except by an artificial displacement of their importance and a consequent deviation from our stated and proper responsibility.

Older counsellors are aware that as recently as last year the Gryphon Society was run by a small group of senior men, well described as the Old Guard. Their strength lay in their seniority and in the support, often unquestioning and authoritarian, which they received from the Director of Residence Halls. A similar alliance is in process of formation and it will, I have no doubt, lead to a similar stultification of growth, to great reliance by an administrative officer too far away from the pulse of things, upon the advice of men with a vested interest. This vested interest is the affairs of the Gryphon Society.

The results of the situation are already apparent, at least in part, to those who are not so heavily involved in the situation as to blind to its consequences.

Too much emphasis is placed upon the social life of the counsellor and relatively too little upon the performance of his real job- counselling. A further commentary here is that by the nature of their respective positions it is the counsellor's Residence Officer not the President or the Board of the Gryphon Society and is indeed a primary function of the R.O., the critical evaluation of the individual counsellor after watching his performance over the year.

Too much emphasis is placed upon the maintenance of a group academic average and of the individual's position vis a vis this average. (Subtly and almost unconsciously this tendency has been driven out of reasonable proportion by the Dean and Associate Dean of Students who have fallen foul of the occupational disease of administrators- an undue reliance upon statistics as a means of assessment of individuals.)

In the new situation with regard to Residence Officers it is inevitable that a high position in the G.S. will be an important factor in the selection of future Senior Counsellors. It will not be the only factor, I am sure, but after all with four jobs and ten or so Seniors of whom say seven or eight are of hardly separable ability, will not office- holding be a major if not decisive factor? It can hardly be otherwise and the consequence will be a too heavy dependence upon Gryphon politics and elections in the choice of administrative officers.

Let me make clear that I do not deny the great benefits of the G.S. to individuals, and to the recruitment of a higher calibre of counsellor. I recognize these completely. My deeply-felt objection is to the compulsion upon all counsellors to join this organization. (There might be some possible grounds for this if the Society could prove that it advanced the professional knowledge of the counsellor

to any major extent.) I object to the tactics of reporting a man to the Dean for non-payment of social dues. To use a fine American expression this is a "sneaky trick" and conjures nothing but contempt for those who, lacking apparently the personality to persuade, or sufficient tolerance to allow others to differ in their opinions, have to resort to such a method. To say that one must abide by majority decisions is to beg the question. Such a duty holds true only when one has voluntarily joined an organization (except in the case of one's nation and one does not have much choice as to where one is born or of whom!). The university appoints a man to be a counsellor; it does not appoint him to the Gryphon Society nor is it meet reason to say that membership in this body is necessary to the highest fulfillment of one's functions in the capacity to which one is appointed.

We have arrived at the present unsatisfactory situation not by the machinations of power- hungry counsellors nor through nepotism on the part of the Director of Residence Halls, but through the weakness of human nature which has fallen prey to the possibly inevitable errors in the administering of a group. The writer cannot hope to eradicate these faults, but by pointing these up and creating a greater awareness of their potency this letter may serve its purpose of making us more sensitive to remedying their effects. Geraint Evans

NOTICES

Meeting for Fitzgerald, Hackworth, Moyer, Perneski and Wimmer Tuesday 10:30 P.M.

Drinker house meeting Friday 7:00 P.M.

Richards house meeting Monday 10:30. Have reports on Valentine men and others in academic difficulties.

WEEKEND DUTY	Drinker	Richards
	Dolan	Emerson
	Krupnick	Fitzgerald

MOVIES

		Bethlehem
College	Mon.-Tues.:	The Unforgiven (May be held over)
	Next Feature:	Guns of the Timberland
Boyd	Mon.-Tues.:	Tall Story
	Starts Wed.:	The Glenn Miller Story
Globe	Mon.-Tues.:	Visit to a Small Planet
	Starts Wed.:	The Rise and Fall of Legs Diamond
Nile	Mon.-Tues.:	(Chance Meeting (The Big Night
	Starts Wed.:	The Greatest Show on Earth
		Allentown
Boyd	Mon.-?:	The Unforgiven
	Next Feature:	The Wind Cannot Read
Colonial	Mon.-Tues.:	Visit to a Small Planet
	Starts Wed.:	(The Threat (Guns of the Timberland
Earle	Mon.-Thurs.:	Pillow Talk
	Starts Fri.:	The Glenn Miller Story
19th	Mon.-On:	Operation Petticoat
Rialto	Mon.-On:	The Fugitive Line